

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

LAURIE PYNE,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTRALIA COLLEGE, a state community college; ROBERT MOHRBACHER, individually and in his official capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of Centralia College; JANE DOE MOHRBACHER, husband and wife and the marital community composed thereof; WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, a Washington Agency; DAN WHITE, individually and in his official former capacity as the Superintendent of Washington Corrections Center; CHERYL STRANGE, individually and in her official capacity as the Secretary of the Department of Corrections; and JANE AND JOHN DOES,

Defendants.

No. 3:24-cv-5954

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Clerk's Action Required

[Removal from the Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Lewis, Case No. 24-2-0106221]

TO: CLERK OF THE COURT, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

AND TO: Joy M. Lockerby, Attorneys for Plaintiff

Defendants Centralia College, Robert Mohrbacher, Washington State Department of Corrections, Dan White, and Cheryl Strange ("Defendants"), by and through their counsel of record, remove this action from the Superior Court, State of Washington, County of Lewis, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, Tacoma Division. Pursuant

1 to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a short and plain statement setting forth the grounds for removal follows.

2 1. On October 18, 2024, Plaintiff Laurie Pyne filed this action in the Lewis County
3 Superior Court, which assigned it Cause No. 24-2-0106221. *See* Ex. 1. Removal to this Court is
4 appropriate because this Court is the United States District Court for the district and division
5 embracing the place where the state court action is pending. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a); LCR 3(e).

6 2. Plaintiff served Defendants on October 18, 2024, when Plaintiff served the
7 Complaint via hand delivery. *See* RCW 4.28.080(1). Notice of removal is timely when it is “filed
8 within 30 days after the receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, . . . or within 30
9 days after the service of summons upon the defendant.” 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(1). Under Fed. R.
10 Civ. P. 6(a)(1), “if the last day is a . . . Sunday . . . the period continues to run until the end of the
11 next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.” Here, 30 days after Defendants were
12 served was November 17, 2024. Because November 17 was a Sunday, the period for removal
13 extended to the next day, which is Monday, November 18. *See Gronquist v. Cunningham*, 747 F.
14 App’x 532, 534 (9th Cir. 2018); *McConnell & Malek Enters. v. Proof Mark, Inc.*, No. 23-cv-
15 00010-LJC, 2023 WL 3688094, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 25, 2023). Thus, this notice, filed on
16 November 18, is timely and appropriate.

17 3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, this Court has original jurisdiction over one of
18 Plaintiff’s 15 causes of action—Count J.6, as that Count arises under the laws of the United States,
19 specifically, 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. *See* Ex.
20 1 ¶¶ 4.146–51. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), supplemental jurisdiction exists for Plaintiff’s
21 remaining Washington State common law claims for breach of contract, breach of good faith and
22 fair dealing, and wrongful termination; statutory claims under Wash. Rev. Code § 42.52 for wage
23 theft and under Wash. Rev. Code § 49.60 for retaliation, discrimination for perceived physical
24 impairment, religious discrimination, and disparate treatment; and constitutional claims for a
25

1 violation of the takings clause, art. I, § 16, invasion of privacy, art. I, § 7, deprivation of life, liberty,
 2 or property, art. I, § 3, infringement of freedom of conscience, art. I, § 11, and a violation of equal
 3 protection, art. I, § 3. Plaintiff's state law claims directly relate to the controversy pleaded in
 4 Plaintiff's § 1983 claim because they all stem from her termination of employment for failing to
 5 take the COVID-19 vaccine.

6 4. Removal to this Court is also appropriate because it has personal jurisdiction over
 7 Plaintiff and Defendants. There are no other identified defendants in this matter, therefore consent
 8 is not required.

9 5. In compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) and LCR 101(b), Defendants have attached
 10 a true, correct, and complete copy of the complaint, Exhibit 1; a certificate of service listing all
 11 counsel who have appeared in the action, with their contact information, including email address,
 12 Exhibit 2; and, a complete copy of all process, pleadings, and orders filed by or served upon
 13 Defendants in the underlying action, Exhibit 3. In providing Exhibits 1–3, defense counsel further
 14 certify compliance with LCR 101(c).

15 6. In compliance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a copy of this Notice (without exhibits),
 16 will be filed with the King County Superior Court and contemporaneously served upon Plaintiff.

17 7. A Notice of Related Cases is filed contemporaneously with this Notice of Removal.

18 8. Defendants intend no admission of fact, law, or liability by this Notice of Removal,
 19 and expressly reserve all cognizable defenses, motions, rights, and pleas.

20 DATED this 18th day of November, 2024.

21 PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP

22 s/ Ian D. Rogers
 23 Ian D. Rogers, WSBA #46584

24 s/ Meha Goyal
 25 Meha Goyal, WSBA #56058

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PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP
1191 Second Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98101
206-245-1700
Ian.Rogers@pacificalawgroup.com
Meha.Goyal@pacificalawgroup.com

*Attorneys for Defendants Centralia College,
Robert Mohrbacher, Washington State
Department of Corrections, Dan White, and
Cheryl Strange*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 18th day of November, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the United States District Court, Western District of Washington, using the CM/ECF system and also sent a true and correct copy of this filing, via electronic mail, per agreement, to counsel for plaintiff listed below.

Joy M. Lockerby
Lockerby Law, PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3000
Seattle, WA 98101
206-854-2869
joy@lockerbylaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED this 18th day of November, 2024.

PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP

s/ Meha Goyal
Meha Goyal, WSBA #56058

PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP
1191 Second Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98101
206-245-1700
Meha.Goyal@pacificallawgroup.com

*Attorney for Defendants Centralia College,
Robert Mohrbacher, Washington State
Department of Corrections, Dan White, and
Cheryl Strange*